IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
Civil Action No. 1:17-cv-457

JAMES R. BULLOCK, JR.	)
	)
Plaintiff,	)
	)
v.	)
	)
GADINAIR, BELL AVIATION, INC., and JET SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.	)
	)
Defendants.	)

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441(a), and 1446, Defendant Jet Support Services, Inc. ("JSSI"), by its attorneys, hereby removes this action from the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, Guilford County, North Carolina, to the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, and as grounds for removal states as follows:

THE STATE COURT ACTION

1. Plaintiff James R. Bullock, Jr. ("Plaintiff") filed a Complaint against Defendants Gadinair, Bell Aviation, Inc. ("Bell") and JSSI (together, "Defendants") in the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, Guilford County, North Carolina, Case No. 17 CVS 4713 (the "State Court Action"). A copy of the Complaint is attached hereto as part of Group Exhibit 1.

2. On April 19, 2017, Plaintiff served the Complaint on JSSI's registered agent by UPS Next Day Air. A copy of the summons and all other process, pleadings, and orders served upon JSSI is attached hereto as Group Exhibit 1.

3. The Complaint purports to assert ten counts for, *inter alia*, breach of contract, fraud, negligent misrepresentation and negligence allegedly arising out of the sale of an aircraft by Gadinair to Plaintiff.

JURISDICTION

4. The Court has jurisdiction over the State Court Action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because complete diversity of citizenship exists and the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of $75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

Complete Diversity Of Citizenship

5. Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of North Carolina. (Compl. ¶ 1.)

6. Defendant Gadinair is a French limited liability company with its principle place of business in France. (*Id.* ¶ 2.) On information belief, it has a single member, Gontran Albert Dondain, who is a citizen and resident of France. For jurisdictional purposes, Gadinair is a citizen of France.

7. Defendant Bell is a South Carolina corporation with its principal place of business in South Carolina. (*Id.* ¶ 3.) For jurisdictional purposes, Bell is a citizen of South Carolina.

8. Defendant JSSI is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Illinois. For jurisdictional purposes, it is a citizen of Delaware and Illinois.

9. Based on the foregoing, none of Defendants are citizens of North Carolina, and there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiff and Defendants.

The Amount In Controversy Exceeds $75,000

10. The Complaint alleges that Plaintiff incurred damages of at least $1,000,000, plus interest, costs, and attorney's fees for which JSSI and the other Defendants are liable. (*E.g.*, Compl. ¶¶ 115, 132, 136, 181.)

11. Thus, the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of $75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

CONFORMITY WITH OTHER REQUIREMENTS

12. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and 1446(a) because the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina is the federal judicial district within which the State Court Action is pending.

13. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1), this Notice of Removal is timely because it is filed within thirty days of Plaintiff's service of the Complaint on JSSI.

14. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), and Paragraphs 1 and 2, *supra*, copies of all process, pleadings, and orders served on JSSI by Plaintiff are attached hereto as Group Exhibit 1.

15. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), JSSI's undersigned counsel is serving this Notice of Removal on Plaintiff's counsel and is filing a copy thereof with the Clerk of the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division, Guilford County, North Carolina.

16. By filing this Notice of Removal, JSSI does not waive any defenses, including, but not limited to, lack of personal jurisdiction or improper venue or forum.

17. Bell consents to removal of the State Court Action.

18. JSSI is informed and believes that Gadinair has not yet been served with process.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Jet Support Services, Inc. hereby removes this action to the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,

JET SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.

By: /s/ Alan M. Ruley
Alan M. Ruley
aruley@belldavispitt.com
NC State Bar No. 16407
BELL, DAVIS & PITT, P.A.
100 N. Cherry St., Suite 600
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
(336) 722-3700

Monte Mann
mmann@novackmacey.com
Andrew P. Shelby
ashelby@novackmacey.com
NOVACK AND MACEY LLP
100 North Riverside Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 419-6900

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Alan M. Ruley, an attorney, hereby certifies that he caused a copy of the foregoing **Notice of Removal** to be delivered by email and U.S. Mail to:

Andrew L. Chapin
Richard D. Conner
Conner Gwyn Schenck PLLC
P.O. Box 20744
Greensboro, NC 27420
Counsel for Plaintiff

Thomas J. Doughton
Doughton Blancato PLLC
500 W. 4th Street, Suite 203-A
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Counsel for Defendant Bell Aviation, Inc.

on this 19th day of May, 2017.

/s/ Alan M. Ruley
Alan M. Ruley